

## **Yellowstone County Horse and Colt Projects Supplement**

### **Revised October, 2008**

1. Horse members, horse leaders and organizational leaders enrolled in the prior year can vote at the Horse and Colt Committee meetings. Any rule or policy change must be submitted to the Extension Office on the rule/policy proposal form by the first Friday in October. These changes will be voted on at the October Horse and Colt Committee meeting.
2. All members in the horse project must start at Level I and then proceed through the levels as they complete the book and pass the assessments. Members may pass through more than one level in the project year. Once a member has completed a level, they show in the next level. The member will show in the level above what has been completed.
3. All members must complete Horsemanship Introduction and levels 1, 2 and 3 before entering any other Horse project. (In some cases, the leader could use Horseless Horse Project Introduction, and levels 1, 2 and 3.) This includes: Horsemanship levels 4 thru 7, Colt to Maturity, Rodeo, Ranch Horse, Packing, Driving, and Green Horse.
4. A resource library of project materials (videos and books) is available at the Extension Office.
5. All Horse projects listed in the 4-H Clover will be offered in Yellowstone County. Rodeo will be offered as a county project.
6. 4-H members will be assessed at the club level by a leader or teen leader. The assessment sheets are not to be turned into the county office but are to be kept in the member's record book. A tally sheet signed by the horse or organizational leader showing the new levels and projects for the members will be turned into the Extension Office. These tally sheets with all level changes are to be completed by June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The member will show in the level above what has been completed.
7. The completed 4-H Horse ID cards are due into the Extension Office on May 31<sup>st</sup>. These cards must be signed by both the parent and leader and include a picture of the horse. Proof of current vaccination for influenza, tetanus and eastern and western sleeping sickness (4 in 1 shot) must be attached to the card. Cards after the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline will not be accepted and horses without completed cards on file will not be allowed to show at fair.
8. Only one ID card per Horse Project will be accepted. (English and Western Horsemanship are different projects and two different horses may be used.)
9. The 4-H member must be 12 years old or older during the current project year and have completed Horsemanship Level 1, 2 and 3 to enroll in the Colt to Maturity Project and Green Horse Project.
10. Yellowstone County 4-H Lease Agreements must be turned into the County Extension Office by May 1. The use of lease agreements is optional.
11. Project animals should not be ridden by a trainer. The project's goals are to teach the 4-H member. Riding lessons are permitted providing the student rides the horse and the instructor does not.
12. Colts used in the Colt to Maturity project must be entered in the program during or before their one year old year. Horses that are 2 years old or older when the 4-H member begins the project should be entered in the Green Horse Project. The Green Horse Project is defined as an unbroken or green broke horse (started but not finished) no older than 7 years old.
13. Only mares and geldings may be shown in any horse project. Stallions are not eligible.
14. A project horse may be exhibited by up to two 4-H members. They must be part of immediate family and may be shared only for a period of 1 year and not be riding at the same level. One of the showing participants must be in Horse Level 1, 2 or 3. Neither the horse nor the member can compete against himself or herself. Each member must provide a horse ID card for the horse by the May 1st Horse ID Card deadline.
15. The age of the 4-H member is determined as of October 1 of the 4-H project year for age group classes and contests at shows.
16. The age of the horse shall be computed by calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. EX. - A horse foaled any

time in 2001 will be termed one year old January 1, 2002; two years old January 1, 2003; etc.

17. All animals carried in 4-H projects must be in the continual care of the 4-H member by May 31 through September 30 of the project year. If a horse must be stabled, the member should come to the committee and tell their role in the horse's feed and care.

18. If a replacement of a project horse becomes necessary, such replacement must be approved by the Horse and Colt Committee at a monthly meeting. No replacements will be made after the July Meeting. A colt project can only be replaced with a yearling or 2 year old.

19. Member must have completed Horsemanship Level 3 to do any of these events at fair: Level 4-7, Trail, reining, bareback, poles, barrels, team penning & hunter hack. Colt, Green Horse, and Horsemanship Levels 1-3 horses may not enter these classes.

20. Any 4-H member, regardless of Horsemanship Level, may enter Horse Judging, Horse Showing and Careers with Horses.

21. All horses five years old or older must be ridden with a curb bit and one hand. Exceptions include Level 1 and 2 in the Green Horse Project. Roping reins are not allowed except in speed events. Mechanical hackamore will be allowed in speed events only.

22. Member may ride at only one level English and/or one level Western. If riding both English and Western, levels ridden can be the same level or only one level above or below. Members must compete at the highest level enrolled in the county in any open class.

23. Colt to Maturity and Green Horse projects cannot cross-enter in Horsemanship I-VI English or Western. Horsemanship I-VI projects cannot cross-enter in Colt to Maturity English or Western.

24. Lead shanks with chains may be used but the use of the chain over the nose or under the jaw or in any way having contact with the horse will be prohibited.

25. The dress code for MontanaFair will be as follows:

Neatness is the first requirement regarding a rider's attire. Equipment stewards shall eliminate those contestants who do not conform.

**WESTERN:**

- Long sleeved, button or snap shirt with a collar.
- Western type pants, western boots and a western type hat (felt or straw)
- Vests, sweaters, jackets, chaps, gloves and ties are optional
- Helmets are optional.
- Spurs are optional unless otherwise prohibited (bareback and showmanship)
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

**ENGLISH:**

- Hunt coat (red, pink, or scarlet coats prohibited unless earned as a member of a recognized hunt), breeches, English style blouse or shirt with sleeves, hunt boots, helmet (meeting ASTM and SEI standards recommended)
- Stocks, chokers, or ties required
- Gloves, unrowelled spurs and crop or bat optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

**SADDLE SEAT:**

- Conservative solid color jacket and jodhpurs are required
- Derby, soft hat, or top hat, jodhpur boots
- Gloves, stock, chokers, or ties are required
- Unrowelled spurs and crop are optional
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be contained in a net or braid

**BAREBACK EQUITATION AND SHOWMANSHIP:**

- Western or English attire is allowed. If riding English attire, long sleeved shirt must be worn without the jacket. Chaps, spurs, crops, and bats prohibited.

## **Welcome to the Yellowstone County 4-H Horse Projects**

This supplement is written to parents and their 4-H members enrolled in the horse projects. We welcome you, your family, and your horse to the exciting 4-H Project of horses! We are encouraged by your participation in the horse projects. Whether you are an “old hand” with horses and their nature, or you have no experience with horses, we feel the information in this supplement will aid you and your member to become comfortable in the world of the 4-H horse project.

### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE HORSE PROJECTS**

- 1) Get to know your horse leader in your club.
  - i) Horse leaders are volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge, and efforts, to help the horse project members learn good horsemanship skills, and to promote the safety of the youth and their horses.
  - ii) Horse leaders can come from a variety of backgrounds. Each leader may have worked with, but not limited to, show horses, ranch horses, race horses, rodeo horses, breeding programs, horse training programs. There are many methods of training that are incorporated as well. The three things all leaders have in common are the passion to help youth, good horsemanship skills, and the safety of the members and horses.
- 2) Acquaint both the members and parents with the 4-H project books.
  - i) The maneuvers that need to be performed for assessment & the fair show are listed & explained in the project manual.
  - ii) The project books list vital safety factors.
- 3) Acquaint both members & parents with the supplemental materials at the Courthouse in the County Extension Office.
- 4) Ask questions all year long. Horse is one of those projects requiring devotion and time. Get started early and as questions arise that you may need answers to, call your horse leader. If your horse leader is unsure of the answer, they can direct you where to go.
- 5) Help your child make it to the many meetings/clinics that are offered both at club levels and county levels.
  - i) Hauling your horse to different events will help you and your leaders see the horse's reaction to new settings. Many times a horse will behave one way when they are in familiar settings, and then behave in an entirely different manner when exposed to a new setting.
  - ii) Sometimes a horse will need to be lounged in a new setting before the member can safely ride the same horse that the member “just climbs on and goes with at home.”
  - iii) Occasionally the leader may be able to tell that the child will have trouble showing the horse in horse shows and the child might be encouraged to try a horse that will more likely accept the show ring.
  - iv) Attending riding meeting usually lets the horse get used to new things, and a horse that might be overly nervous at the first riding meeting will be just fine and begin to behave better by the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - v) Each leader is required to assess the 4-H members in order for the member to show at the fair. It is much easier for these brave volunteers to assess your member and their horse in an ongoing matter, as opposed to only seeing the member one time in the horse's familiar setting.
  - vi) Many leaders are parents of members themselves and we understand that sometimes there are road blocks to getting your member to riding meetings. Please discuss these things with your horse leader since they may be able to help you figure out a way to get horse and member to at least some of the riding meetings.
  - vii) Some clubs do not hold riding meetings. Please feel free to contact a different club to see if your member might be able to ride with their club.
- 6) Haul your horse before fair! So many times a horse is excellent at many things but does not haul well.
  - i) Loading and unloading horses can be a dangerous time. It is better to plan a few trips at leisure than to wait until you HAVE to be somewhere and on time. If you try loading the horse for leisure and run into a problem then you can seek out help and ideas so that you can safely teach the 4-H member how to properly load their horse.
- 7) We as leaders cannot stress SAFETY enough. Many of us have had to troubleshoot the things listed above and that's why we have made this supplement. Below you will find the names of leaders who are willing to help out. You do not have to belong to their specific club to ask them for help.
- 8) For members who are starting your project by finding the “right horse” please consult your leader before making a decision. A good rule of thumb is that the age of the horse, added to the age of the rider, should equal 20 years.
- 9) Be aware that if your horse is not used to being stalled, there is a chance that your horse will have “extra energy” at the fair. It is an excellent idea to have your horse used to lounging to help burn off the unwanted energy. Lounging lightly, in the morning, will also help the older horses warm up their “old” muscles & joints after being confined to a stall all night.

Horse leaders want to help your member learn in a safe manner about the 4-H Horse Project. We want to see all members succeed with their projects! WELCOME! For a list of current horse leaders contact Roni at the Extension Office: 256-2828.